NETWORK OF SIKH ORGANISATIONS
UNITY IS STRENGTH

A HATE CRIME GUIDE

for the Sikh community

Introduction

This is a guide for members of the Sikh community who may have faced either racism or religiously motivated hate crime.

What is anti-Sikh hate?

This is taken to be a combination of racist and religious hate crimes, where the hostility targets Sikh people or communities and religious hate crimes that target Sikhism[1].

Sikhs can also be victims of hostility, based on the perception that they are Muslims, in so called 'mistaken identity' or 'Islamophobic' attacks.

Types of anti-Sikh hate crime

Sikhs suffer racism like any other group, and this could be either verbal, physical, or online.

The case of a Sikh environmentalist who almost had his turban ripped off whilst waiting to meet an MP in parliament in 2018 is one high-profile example.

In the aftermath of terror attacks like 9/11 and the London 7/7 bombings, it was not unusual for turbaned and bearded Sikhs to be referred to as 'Bin laden' or 'Taliban'. Some Sikhs have been physically assaulted whilst being called these names.

The first person killed in retribution for 9/11 in the US was a turbaned Sikh. One of the first places to be attacked in retribution for 7/7 in the UK was a gurdwara (Sikh place of worship). And in 2015 a Sikh dentist in Wales was almost beheaded in a revenge attack for the murder of Lee Rigby.

In fact, freedom of information requests submitted by the NSO to the MET police revealed 28% of the victims of 'Islamophobic hate crimes' in London during 2015 were non-Muslims or people of no recorded faith, including Sikhs.

Sikh women have also been targeted. In one case, which resulted in a conviction, the victims were specifically referred to in derogatory terms used for Muslims.

Attacks against places of worship

Gurdwaras (Sikh places of worship) have also been targeted with graffiti in hate related incidents. In 2015, anti-Muslim graffiti 'die Muslims die', was sprayed on a gurdwara in Thornaby, England. It also included the phrase 'white power' indicating a racially motivated hostility. In 2018 two gurdwaras were targeted, one in Leeds and one in Edinburgh, and in 2020 a gurdwara was attacked in a hate crime in Derby.

1 http://library.college.police.uk/docs/college-of-policing/Hate-Crime-Operational-Guidance.pdf

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Getting advice and support

Anti-Sikh hate crime like all hate crimes should not be tolerated. You are entitled to seek support, report hate crime incidents and seek redress.

Contact **Victim Support** for free and confidential help:
Victim Supportline: 0808 16 89 111
e-mail: supportline@victimsupport.org.uk
Website: www.victimsupport.org.uk
Address: Hallam House, 56 – 60 Hallam Street, London W1W 6JL

Reporting

Always ring 999 if it is an emergency or alternatively 101 to report the incident if it's a non-emergency or after any incident.

Make sure you make a note of:

- the date/time
- any details about the abuser
- the nature of the abusive (physical, verbal, online)
- the impact it had on you
- details of any action you took

If you do not wish to speak to the police directly or visit a police station to report an incident, you can report online through the police site - True Vision:
https://beta.met.police.uk/true-vision-report-hate-crime/

You can report anonymously if you choose, the crime will still be recorded.
e-mail: enquiries@report-it.org.uk

Online hate

You can also report online hate material to the police via True Vision, but we recommend you take a screenshot or photo of the evidence where applicable, and if possible, the URL link to the poster's profile in the case of social media to assist any investigation.

Contacts for other relevant organisations

Network of Sikh Organisations:
e-mail: info@nsouk.co.uk

Website: http://nsouk.co.uk/

The Monitoring Group: (anti-racist charity that promotes civil rights)
e-mail: office@tmg-uk.org

Website: http://www.tmg-uk.org/

020 7582 7438 | Mon-Thurs | 11am-6pm

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